

## Songs for a Cheerful Occupation

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## **Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around**

Ain't gonna let nobody turn me around  
Turn me around,  
Turn me around  
Ain't gonna let nobody turn me around.  
Gonna keep on a-walking,  
Keep on a-talking  
Gonna build a brand new world.

Ain't gonna let no bankers...  
Ain't gonna let the congress ...  
Ain't gonna let Fox newscasts ...  
Ain't gonna let no liars ...  
Ain't gonna let injustice ...

## **America the Beautiful**

O beautiful for spacious skies,  
For amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountain majesties  
Above the fruited plain!

### **CHORUS:**

America! America!  
God shed His grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for patriot dream  
That sees beyond the years  
Thine alabaster cities gleam  
Undimmed by human tears. **CHO**

## **America (My Country, 'Tis of Thee)**

My country, 'tis of thee,  
Sweet land of liberty,  
Of thee I sing:  
Land where my fathers died,  
Land of the pilgrims' pride,  
From ev'ry mountainside,  
Let freedom ring! (*contd.*)

Let music swell the breeze,  
And ring from all the trees  
Sweet freedom's song;  
Let mortal tongues awake;  
Let all that breathe partake;  
Let rocks their silence break,  
The sound prolong.

*(Repeat first verse)*

## **Banks of Marble** (by Les Rice)

I've traveled round this country  
From shore to shining shore.  
And it really made me wonder  
At the things I heard and saw.

### **CHORUS:**

But the banks are made of marble,  
With a guard at every door  
And the vaults are stuffed with silver  
That the people sweated for.

I saw the weary farmer  
A-plowing sod and loam  
And I heard the auction hammer  
It was knocking down his home.

**CHO:** But the banks... / That the farmer...

I saw the seaman standing  
Idly by the shore,  
And I heard the bosses saying,  
Got no work for you no more.

**CHO:** But the banks... / That the seamen...

I saw the weary miner  
Scrubbing coal dust off his back,  
And I heard his children crying  
Got no coal to heat the shack.

**CHO:** But the banks... / That the miners...

I've seen the people working  
Throughout this mighty land;  
And I prayed we'd get together,  
And together make a stand.

**CHO:** For the banks... / That the workers...

## **Bring Out the Banners** (w: John Warner)

In faded photo like a dream  
A locomotive under steam  
Rolls along with marching feet  
And union banners on the street

### **CHORUS:**

Bring out the banners once again  
You union women, union men  
That all around may plainly see  
The power of our unity

I've seen those banners richly made  
With symbols fair of craft and trade,  
The union names in red and gold  
Their aspirations printed bold. **CHO**

Boilermakers, smiths and cooks  
Stevedores with cargo hooks  
Proclaim their union strong and proud  
Rank on rank before the crowd. **CHO**

They won the eight-hour working day;  
They won our right to honest pay.  
Victorious the banners shone —  
How dare we cede what they have won?

### **CHO**

Today, when those who rule divide,  
We must be standing side by side,  
Our rights were bought with tears and pain,  
Bring out the banners once again. **CHO**

Take this message, take these tones.  
Feel them deep inside your bones.  
But never sing 'em just by rote:  
Think when you sing; think when you vote!

### **CHO**

**Dig a Channel** (by Susanne Fisk; new  
verses by Rae Langton & Ruth Perry)

*(Call and response: all echo each phrase)*

Dig a channel... Life will flow...  
Rising from the river... Deep below...

*(contd.)*

Tell your story... Make them know...  
Why you're angry... Let it show...

See the workers... Line up slow...  
Jobless workers... Row on row...

See the children... In the snow...  
Hungry children... Row on row...

Ask a banker... Hear him crow...  
Hear the answer -- 'Status quo...'

Icebergs melting... Smokestacks blow...  
'Just one planet... Let it go...'

Tell our story... Make them know...  
Stand together... Row on row...

Dig a channel... Life will flow...  
Rising from the river... Deep below...

## **Farther Along**

Tempted & tried, we're oft made to wonder,  
Why it should be thus, all the day long;  
While there are others, living about us  
Never molested, though in the wrong.

### **CHORUS:**

Farther along, we'll know all about it.  
Farther along, we'll understand why,  
Cheer up my brothers, walk in the sunshine  
We'll understand it all, by and by.

When death has come and taken our loved  
ones,

Leaving our homes so lone and so drear,  
Then do we wonder why others prosper  
Living as sinners year after year. **CHO**

Often I wonder why I must journey  
Over a road so rugged and steep,  
While there are others living in comfort  
While with the lost I labour and weep. **CHO**

## **Hallelujah, I'm A Bum**

Why don't you work like other folks do?  
How the hell can I work when there's no  
work to do?

### **CHORUS:**

Hallelujah, I'm a bum,  
Hallelujah, bum again,  
Hallelujah, give us a bailout  
To revive us again.

Oh, why don't you save all the money you  
earn?  
If I didn't eat, I'd have money to burn. **CHO**  
Oh, I like my boss, he's a good friend of  
mine,  
That's why I am starving out on the bread-  
line. **CHO**  
Oh why do you march & why do you camp?  
This cause is worth some cold & some  
damp. **CHO**  
Oh, why don't they like us, this camp & its  
size?  
While we're all here we just might organize!  
**CHO**

## **Hold On (Keep your Eyes on the Prize)**

Paul and Silas bound in jail  
Had no money to go their bail  
Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on

### **CHORUS:**

Hold on, hold on  
Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on

Paul and Silas began to shout  
Jail doors open, and they walk out  
Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on. **CHO**  
Freedom's name is mighty sweet  
Rich and poor are gonna meet  
Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on. **CHO**

*(contd.)*

Ain't but one chain we can stand  
And that's the chain of hand in hand  
Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on. **CHO**

The only thing that we did wrong  
Was stayin' in the wilderness too long  
Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on. **CHO**

The only thing we did was right  
Was the day we began to fight  
Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on. **CHO**

## **If I Had a Hammer** (by Hays & Seeger)

If I had a hammer  
I'd hammer in the morning  
I'd hammer in the evening  
All over this land  
I'd hammer out a danger  
I'd hammer out a warning  
I'd hammer out a love between  
My brothers and my sisters,  
All over this land

If I had a bell  
I'd ring it in the morning  
I'd ring it in the evening  
All over this land. ...

If I had a song  
I'd sing it in the morning  
I'd sing it in the evening  
All over this land. ...

Well I've got a hammer  
And I've got a bell  
And I've got a song to sing  
All over this land.  
It's the hammer of justice  
It's the bell of freedom  
It's the song about a love between  
My brothers and my sisters  
All over this land.

**John Ball** (by Sydney Carter)

Who'll be the lady, who will be the lord  
When we are ruled  
by the love of one another  
Who'll be the lady, who will be the lord  
In the light that is coming in the morning

**CHORUS:**

Sing, John Ball, and tell it to them all –  
Long live the day that is dawning!  
For I'll crow like a cock, I'll carol like a  
lark  
In the light that is coming in the morning

Eve is the lady, Adam is the lord  
When we are ruled  
by the love of one another  
Eve is the lady, Adam is the lord  
In the light that is coming in the morning

**CHO**

All shall be ruled by fellowship I say... **CHO**  
Labour and spin for fellowship I say... **CHO**

**Jolly Banker** (by Woody Guthrie)

My name is Tom Cranker,  
and I'm a jolly banker,  
I'm a jolly banker, jolly banker am I.  
I safeguard the farmers  
and widows and orphans,  
Singin' I'm a jolly banker, jolly banker am I.

When dust storms are sailing,  
and crops they are failing,  
I'm a jolly banker, jolly banker am I.  
I check up your shortage  
and bring down your mortgage,  
Singin' I'm a jolly banker, jolly banker am I.  
When money you're needing,  
and mouths you are feeding...  
I'll plaster your home with a furniture loan...

*(contd.)*

If you show me you need it,  
I'll let you have credit...  
Just bring me back two  
for the one I lend you...

When your car you're losin'  
and sadly your cruisin'...  
I'll come and foreclose,  
get your car and your clothes...

When I think your tent city does not look  
too pretty...  
I'll send the police to beautify these  
streets...

**MTA Charlie** (by Steiner & Hawes)

Let me tell you the story  
of a man named Charlie  
On a tragic and fateful day  
He put ten cents in his pocket,  
kissed his wife and family  
Went to ride on the MTA

**CHORUS:**

Did he ever return, no he never returned  
And his fate is still unlearn'd  
He may ride forever,  
'neath the streets of Boston  
He's the man who never returned.

Charlie handed in his dime  
at the Kendall Square Station  
And he changed for Jamaica Plain  
But when he got there the conductor said,  
'One more nickel'—  
Charlie couldn't get off that train. **CHO**

Now all night long  
Charlie rides through the tunnels  
Crying, 'What will become of me?  
How can I afford to see my sister in Chelsea  
Or my cousin in Roxbury?' **CHO**

*(contd.)*

Charlie's wife goes down  
to the Scollay Square station  
Every day at quarter past two,  
And through the open window  
she hands Charlie a sandwich  
As the train goes rumblin' through. **CHO**

Now you citizens of Boston,  
don't you think it's a scandal  
How the people have to pay and pay?  
Fight the fare increase,  
vote for Walter O'Brien,  
And let Charlie off the MTA! **CHO**

### **The Man that Waters the Workers' Beer** (w: Paddy Ryan)

#### **CHORUS:**

I am the man, the very fat man,  
that waters the workers' beer  
I am the man, the very fat man,  
that waters the workers' beer  
And what do I care if it makes them ill,  
if it makes them terribly queer?  
I've a car, a yacht, and an aeroplane,  
and I waters the workers' beer

Now when I makes the workers' beer,  
I puts in strychnine,  
Some methylated spirits, and  
a drop of kerosene,  
But I fear a brew so terribly strong  
might make them terribly queer,  
So I reaches my hand for the watering-can  
and I waters the workers' beer. **CHO**

Now a drop of good beer is good for a man  
when he's thirsty, tired and hot  
And I sometimes has a drop myself,  
from a very special pot  
But a strong and healthy working class  
is the thing that I most fear,  
So I reaches my hand for the watering-can  
and I waters the workers' beer. **CHO**

*(contd.)*

Now ladies fair, beyond compare,  
be you maid or wife  
Sometimes spare a thought for one  
who leads a sorry life  
For the water rates are shockingly high,  
and malt is terribly dear  
And there ain't the profit there used to be  
in wat'ring the workers' beer. **CHO**

### **No More!** (w: Vicki Ryder)

*(m: "Oh Mary, Don't You Weep")*

This is the day we say "no more,"  
No more bailouts and no more war,  
No more killin' on foreign shores,  
Today we say no more!

#### **CHORUS:**

Today we say no more, no more,  
Today we say no more, no more,  
No more killin' on foreign shores,  
Today we say no more!

We've been workin' for the day  
When workin' folk rise up and say:  
Tax the rich and make them pay!  
Today we say no more! **Cho**

You bankers and you CEOs,  
You used us all to make your dough.  
Your time is up, you've got to go!  
Today we say no more! **CHO**

With our sweat and with our toil,  
You've raped the earth, the sea and soil,  
So you could sell your bloody spoils.  
Today we say no more! **CHO**

Today we pledge to occupy  
This land you think that you can buy.  
You've robbed us blind, you've bled us dry.  
Today we say no more! **CHO**

## **Occupy Wall Street** (by Chris Nauman)

Occupy, occupy, occupy your mind.  
Then go forth and occupy everything you  
find.

Occupy, occupy, occupy your needs  
Stand up to the 1% occupied with greed.

Occupy, occupy, occupy your rights  
A decent job & education, this is why we  
fight.

Occupy, occupy, occupy your home.  
Don't let the bankers take from you  
everything you own.

### **CHORUS:**

The bells will ring with a new song  
The people sing: "We all belong!"

Occupy, occupy, occupy your health  
A single payer healthcare plan promotes the  
common wealth.

Occupy, occupy, occupy for peace.  
If the world's so occupied, all the wars will  
cease.

Occupy, occupy, occupy the earth  
Hold it like a newborn babe, innocent at  
birth.

Occupy, occupy occupy the Square.  
Let your voice be loud and clear. Let the  
children know you're there. **CHO**

## **Roll the Movement On**

### **CHORUS:**

{We're gonna roll, we're gonna roll  
We're gonna roll the movement on} (2x)

And if the banks get in the way,  
We're gonna roll right over them (3x)  
And if the banks get in the way,  
We're gonna roll right over them  
We're gonna roll the movement on. **CHO**

*(contd.)*

And if the rich get in the way... **CHO**

If politicians get in the way... **CHO**

If the Kochs get in the way... **CHO**

If Big Oil gets in the way... **CHO**

## **They're Taking it Away** (by Ian Robb)

### **CHORUS:**

Oh, they're taking it away,  
yes they're taking it away  
They are taking all the good things  
you can hear the people say  
And they'll take it all tomorrow  
if they don't take it today  
From the poor and sick and helpless,  
they are taking it away.

Oh our government's elected  
in the democratic way  
A-whining at the cost of all  
the things they have to pay  
And the bully-boys on Wall Street,  
you can hear the bastards say,  
"To hell with paying taxes,  
pull the safety-net away!"

If you're down upon your luck and need  
to keep the wolf at bay  
Just don't rely on welfare  
or the dole to pay your way  
For the rich, they have decided  
not another cent to pay  
You can whistle for your supper  
for they've taken it away

If you're native, black, or Asian,  
if you're feminist or gay  
If you're just a little different (*contd.*)  
from the most of us today

If you want to make a point or if  
you want to have your say  
You can spit into the wind for they have  
taken it away

*(contd.)*

If you're battered by your husband  
and you need a place to stay  
You'd best get down upon your knees  
and quickly learn to pray  
For the women's centre's phone  
was disconnected yesterday  
And there's no-one left to talk to,  
now they've taken it away  
If it's ever your misfortune  
in a hospital to stay  
You'd best not be impatient for  
a bed on which to lay  
For your health ain't worth the taxes that  
the healthy have to pay  
And the beds were too expensive, so  
they've taken them away  
Oh there's those that have & those that don't  
and those that are okay  
And there's those who understand that  
fairness is the only way  
But there's those that are so comfortable  
they look the other way  
And they vote for all the villains who  
would take it all away

### **This Little Light of Mine**

This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

All around the world...

All over Wall Street...

It's a light of justice...

It's a light of ninety nine...

*(contd.)*

All around this city...

Everywhere I go...

This little light of mine...

### **This Land is Your Land** (by W. Guthrie)

#### **CHORUS:**

This land is your land, this land is my land  
From California to the New York Island  
From the Redwood Forest  
to the Gulf Stream waters  
This land was made for you and me.

As I went walking that ribbon of highway  
I saw above me that endless skyway  
I saw below me that golden valley  
This land was made for you and me. **CHO**

I roamed and I rambled  
and followed my footsteps  
To the sparkling sands of  
her diamond deserts  
While all around me a voice was sounding  
This land was made for you and me. **CHO**

As I went walking I saw a sign there  
And on the sign it said "No Trespassing."  
But on the other side it didn't say nothing,  
That side was made for you and me. **CHO**

In the squares of the city,  
In the shadow of a steeple;  
By the relief office, I've seen my people.  
As they stood there hungry,  
I stood there asking,  
Is this land made for you and me? **CHO**

Nobody living can ever stop me,  
As I go walking that freedom highway;  
Nobody living can ever make me turn back  
This land was made for you and me. **CHO**



**Wall Street Sit Down** (tune: Maurice Sugar;  
new words: Peggy Seeger)

There's a Wall St. here & a Wall Street there  
Sit down, sit down!  
There's Wall Street almost everywhere  
Sit down, sit down!

**CHORUS:**

Sit down, just take a seat  
Sit down and rest your feet  
Sit down on Wall Street  
Sit down, sit down!

You'll find us here, you'll find us there...  
You'll find us down in Dewey Sq... **CHO**

When the system leaves you out in the  
cold...

When you've lost your job and your life's on  
hold... **CHO**

When your pension's gone and your wage is  
cut...

And the bankers tell you they're hard up...  
**CHO**

When they take your home and your savings  
too...

There's only one thing left to do... **CHO**

When the bankers lie and cheat and steal...  
Here's how to tell them how you feel...  
**CHO**

When public services get the axe...  
When corporations pay no tax... **CHO**

When the rich grow rich and the poor grow  
poor...

When there's always cash for another war...  
**CHO**

When one percent is running the show...  
Then ninety-nine percent say no... **CHO**

Don't get drunk, don't get high...  
Get together and occupy... **CHO**

**When We Go Rolling Home** (by John Tams)

'Round goes the wheel of fortune,  
Don't be afraid to ride;  
There's a land of milk and honey,  
Waits on the other side.  
There'll be peace and there'll be plenty,  
You'll never need to roam,  
When we go rolling home;  
When we go rolling home.

**CHORUS:**

Rolling home, (when we go)  
Rolling home, (when we go)  
Rolling, rolling,  
When we go rolling home.

The gentry in its fine array,  
Do prosper night and morn;  
While we unto the fields must go,  
To plow and sow the corn.  
The rich may steal the power,  
But the glory is our own... **CHO**

The summer of resentment,  
The winter of despair;  
The journey to contentment,  
Is set with trap and snare.  
Stand true and stand together,  
Your labour is your own... **CHO**

The frost is on the hedgerow,  
The icy winds do blow;  
While we poor weary laborers,  
Strive through the sleet and snow.  
Our hopes fly up to glory,  
Up where the larks do go... **CHO**

So pass the bottle 'round,  
And let the toasts go free;  
Here's a health to every laborer,  
Wherever he may be.  
Fair wages now and ever,  
Let's reap what we have sown... **CHO**

## **We Shall Not Be Moved**

We shall not, we shall not be moved  
We shall not, we shall not be moved  
Just like a tree that's standing by the water  
We shall not be moved

We're fighting for our freedom...  
We're fighting for our children...  
Rich and poor together...  
Young and old together...  
We stand behind the unions...  
Don't let the press deceive you...

## **You Gotta Go Down & Join the Sit-in**

You gotta go down and join the sit-in  
You gotta join it for yourself  
Ain't nobody can join it for you  
You gotta go down and join the sit-in for  
yourself  
Brother's going down to join the sit-in  
He's gotta join it for himself  
Ain't nobody can join it for him  
He's gotta go down and join the sit-in for  
himself  
Sister's going down to join the sit-in...  
I'm going down to join the sit-in...  
We're going down to join the sit-in...  
Though our road be rough and rocky  
And the hills be steep and high  
We will sing as we go marching  
And we'll join the One Big sit-in by & by...  
You gotta go down and join the sit-in...